Pass percentage of students

982. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, according to a Government report on elementary education released on 22nd January, 2008, only 43 per cent of students in Government schools pass with more than 60 per cent marks, with girls doing slightly better than boys;

(b) whether, at upper primary level, only 39 per cent students pass with a first class; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for the flaws in the quality of education that the learning abilities of students do not improve much while going for elementary education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) collects elementary school statistics annually through the District Information System for Education (DISE) from all districts in the country.

According to DISE data 2006-07, 45.04% students passed with 60% and above marks, at the exit classes of the primary stage. Girls have performed slightly better than boys, and the percentage of girls and boys passing with 60% and above marks is 45.12% and 44.96% respectively. At the upper primary level, 39.40% students passed with 60% and above marks.

Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, serveral activities have been undertaken to improve the quality of elementary education. This includes recruitment of 8.32 lakh additional teachers to improve the pupil teacher ratio, in-service training of teachers for a period of 20 days every year, free distribution of text books for primary and upper primary classes to about 6.5 crore Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and girls students, academic support to primary and upper primary schools through 6395 Block Resource Centres and 6835 cluster Resource Centres and regular evaluation of students.

Unfilled seats for SCs and STs

983. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many seats allotted to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in professional colleges remained unfilled by students of these categories;

(b) if so, the number of such unfilled seats during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise, course-wise and category-wise;

(c) whether there is any decision to impose two restrictions on the grant Post Matric Scholarships to Scheduled Caste students joining professional courses;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether steps would be taken to withdraw the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

(c) to (e) In September, 2007, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment had decided to continue the Post Matric Scholarship scheme for Scheduled Caste students during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, with the modifications that:—

(i) in case of professional courses, it is available only to those students who are admitted against 'free seats' whether in Government or private institutions, and

(ii) in case of private professional institutions, where admission is on the basis of 12th standard examination marks, there shall be a bench mark of 60% for availing the scholarship.

The above modifications have been withdrawn by the above mentioned Ministry on 28.02.2008.

Councils and Institutions for Training and Research

984. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of councils and institutions for training and research in the field of education controlled by the Central Government;

(b) the details regarding internal marks to be given in the P.T.C. and B.Ed. courses for primary and secondary teachers; and

(c) the details of agencies which are empowered to give recognition to P.T.C. and B.Ed. colleges at the State level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) There are several institutions under Ministry of Human Resource Development which impart training and research in the field of education. These, *inter-alia*, include National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), National Council of Educational Research & Training, (NCERT), National University for Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA), National Institutions of Technical Teachers' Training and Research (NITTTR), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), etc.

(b) and (c) NCTE is a Statutory Body set up under the NCTE Act with a view to achieving planned and co-ordinated development of teacher education throughout the country, the regulation and proper maintenance of norms and standards in the teacher education system. The NCTE through the four regional committees under it—the Northern Regional Committee, the Western Regional Committee, the Southern Regional Committee and the Eastern Regional Committee is authorized under the NCTE Act to grant recognition to the institutions for undertaking various teacher training courses in the country, the accordance with the extant rules and regulations.

Popularity of courses for Urdu and Punjabi

985. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many candidates appeared in Urdu subject in CBSE Examination in 2007 and how many students appeared in Urdu as Elective subject in CBSE Senior Secondary Examination;